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Coordinamento Italiano at UN Decol.

Coordinamento Italiano dei gruppi di solidarieta con il popolo Timorese

Petition to the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization

New York, July 13, 1994

Founded in 1991, the COORDINAMENTO ITALIANO DEI GRUPPI DI SOLIDARIETA CON IL POPOLO TIMORESE (Italian Coalition of Solidarity Groups with East Timorese People) is a coalition that includes NGO's, local groups and individuals engaged in supporting the East Timor people's struggle for self-determination. The Coordinamento promotes information and sensitization campaigns and solidarity projects.

If we examine the East Timor issue with regard to the United Nations General Assembly resolutions and compare it with similar situations such as Namibia, Belize or Western Sahara, we can point out the following:

A) All four territories are former colonies that a nearby powerful country (South Africa for Namibia, Morocco for Western Sahara, Guatemala for Belize, Indonesia for East Timor) has tried to subjugate, advancing territorial contiguity as an excuse to ,justify the annexation.

B) In each of the four cases the General Assembly of the United Nations has passed resolutions that have acknowledged the right to self-determination as a means to reach complete independence.

C) Two of the above mentioned countries, Belize and Namibia, have become independent in full observance of their people's will.

D) In the Western Sahara, on the basis of the agreements reached by Morocco and the Polisario Front, the track through self-determination has already been opened. In fact, the U.N. has agreed to check the observance of the cease-fire and will assure support for a referendum in order to grant the people of Western Sahara the right to self-determination without any military or administrative constraints.

The Coordinamento Italiano dei Gruppi di Solidarieta con il Popolo Timorese,

* bearing in mind the continuous human rights violations in East Timor, of which the massacre at the Santa Cruz cemetery on November 12,1991, represents only one of the many atrocities committed by the Indonesian forces of occupation,

* gravely concerned at the difficulties for access to East Timor by human rights organizations and other relevant human rights observers

* deeply concerned at the pressures exerted by the Indonesian government on the Philippines government in order not to allow the International Meeting of Solidarity groups in Manila in May 1994,

requests, also on the basis of the General Assembly resolution 37/30, that the United Nations promote and guarantee the right of the people of East Timor to self-determination with processes similar to those adopted for Namibia, Western Sahara and Belize.

Thank you very much.